
The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from board meeting no 75, 19 December, 2024

Present members

Ylva Engström (SU, chair), Martin Bergö (KI), Lena Mäler (SU), Mats Larhed (UU), Jonas Larsson (LU), Mikael Lindström (KTH), Katrine Riklund (UmU, §§ 1- 6), Christoph Varenhorst (AstraZeneca)

Not present member

Carina Mallard (GU)

Other participants

Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (LU, §§ 1- 6), Andreas Muranyi Scheutz (Region Uppsala, §§ 1 - 4), Jan Ellenberg (Director, §§ 1- 6), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director, §§ 1- 6), Annika J Jensen (Infrastructure Director, §§ 1- 6), Jenny Alfredsson (Head of Operations/OO, §§ 1- 6), Sandra Falck (Vice Head of Operations/OO, §§ 1- 6), Olli Kallioniemi (§§ 5 - 6), Lars Johansson (OO, §§ 1 – 3c), Anna Lidin (OO, §§ 1 - 4), Titti Ekegren (OO, secretary)

1. Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström welcomed all members and opened the meeting. A special welcome to Lena Mäler, new member from Stockholm University.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab board appointed Katrine Riklund to approve the minutes of the meeting in addition to the chair.

Budget items, §§3a and 3b will be discussed during today's meeting and decisions will be taken in SciLifeLab board meeting no. 76, February 11 when more details are available from "Forsknings- och innovationspropositionen 2024", clarifying SciLifeLab's funding.

§§7 in the agenda is a discussion item where only voting SciLifeLab board members will be present.

The SciLifeLab board approved the agenda.

2. Introduction and Update by Director

Jan Ellenberg informed that the Research and Innovation Policy Bill has been announced and that it recognizes SciLifeLab's unique role as a national center for

molecular life science. The proposition gives a strong statement of trust and support for the SciLifeLab organization. Not all details of the proposed funding for SciLifeLab have been communicated yet.

Part of the extended SciLifeLab funding is planned for investing in the strategic integrated data support for infrastructures, but also to increase the budget for younger infrastructure facilities. Additional strategic initiatives emanating from the IEC and IAB evaluations and to ensure that an adequate IT infrastructure is available to host the integrated data support are still to be discussed and planned for.

3. Financial update

The overall 2025 budget and budget decision process and a year-end forecast of the national surplus at KTH and UU was presented.

The list of reallocations of the DDLS surplus from Phase 1, approved by the SciLifeLab board on meeting no. 74, November 7 has now been approved by KAW. The DDLS management is awaiting accounting details from KAW on how to use/report/request the Phase 1 surplus in Phase 2.

The project of purchasing and implementing a new Grant management system is ongoing. A technical project leader has been recruited and the aim is to have the system implemented by autumn 2025. This system will be key to allow better overview of remaining National SciLifeLab funds among partners and will be beneficial to follow-up on the funding to the infrastructures.

The final SciLifeLab board decision on the budget for 2025 will be taken in meeting no. 76, February 11, 2025.

3a. Infrastructure budget 2025

VC-2024-0085

The overarching priorities and budget allocations to the infrastructure platforms/facilities were presented by the Infrastructure Director, including suggestions of changes in funding to some Platforms and Data Centre for 2025. The final funding plan to the infrastructure platforms will be presented to the board in the meeting no. 76, February 11, 2025.

It was also suggested that un-allocated funding will be reserved for future strategic initiatives.

Several of the new infrastructure entities that will not be funded in the 2025 budget will be encouraged to re-apply after having received feed-back from the infrastructure leadership. It was emphasized that local support at respective host/site university is important and should be encouraged.

3b. SciLifeLab Budget 2025
VC-2024-0086

Year 2024 marks the end of both the current 4-year infrastructure cycle and of the current Research Bill. The new Research and Innovation Policy Bill was released from the government on Dec. 12, 2024.

A preliminary SciLifeLab budget was presented by Jenny Alfredsson. The final version of SciLifeLab budget 2025 will be presented and decided upon in the SciLifeLab Board meeting no 76, February 11, 2025.

This was followed by a discussion in the board, which is in favour of not allocating all funding immediately, but to continue the discussion on strategic initiatives, followed by additional funding decisions during the spring 2025.

3c. Extension of appointments of Platform Directors, Platform Co-Directors, and Platform Coordination Officers and new PD and CoPD for the Clinical Genomics platform.
VC-2024-0087

Platform Directors (PD) are appointed by the SciLifeLab Board for a two + two-year term and any replacement of a PD must be approved by the SciLifeLab Board. Platform Coordination Officers (PCO) are appointed by the Platform Management Group and approved by the SciLifeLab Board on a two + two-year basis in conjunction with the funding decision.

The current mandates for PDs and PCOs will expire on December 31, 2024. Since the funding decisions for 2025 to the infrastructure platforms are not yet taken, the mandates need to be extended. The decision on PDs and PCOs for the period 2025 – 2028 will be taken in the board meeting on 2nd of April 2025.

The SciLifeLab board also suggested that future decisions on assignments for PDs and PCOs are taken in Q2 so that acting PDs and PCOs remains appointed during the whole budget preparation period.

Additionally, the Clinical Genomics platform has proposed Colum Walsh, LiU, and Malin Melin, UU, as new PD and Co-PD, respectively, from Jan 1, 2025

Decision:

The board approved the extension of appointments for Platform Directors, Platform Co-Directors, and Platform Coordination Officers from January 1, 2025, to April 2, 2025 according to appendix 2.

The board approved Colum Walsh and Malin Melin as new PD and Co-PD for the Clinical Genomics platform from January 1, 2025, to April 2, 2025.

4. Beta building project update

VC-2024-0089

Swedish Orphan Biovitrum (SOBI), which currently rents the Beta building from Akademiska Hus, will terminate its contract with Akademiska Hus as of March 31, 2025. This presents an opportunity to rent the Beta building to expand SciLifeLab's facilities at Campus Solna.

The final project report, presenting the project guidelines, directives and analyses of the needs, prospects and economic consequences of renting the Beta building will be ready by the beginning of January 2025. After that the Beta building steering committee will take a decision on January 15th, whether they recommend to consolidate the Beta building. Next, a joint decision by the Rectors will be taken in the Rectors' council on February 4th.

When the report is finalized it will be sent to the SciLifeLab board members. The Chair of the SciLifeLab board welcome any comments on the content of the report.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board mandated the chair of the board to take a decision on whether to support renting the Beta building based on the final report.

5. Research Data Community Projects (RDCP): Call for Expression of Interest

VC 2024-0088

At meeting no 74, November 7, 2024, the SciLifeLab Board approved the allocation of the DDLs Phase 1 surplus to be used in Phase 2. From the surplus, four (4) MSEK will be allocated for an open Expression of Interest call for Research Data Community Projects aiming to foster the formation of novel, Data-Driven, collaborative research communities that exemplify the principles of team science and FAIR data sharing.

The draft call text and process for the RDCP call for expression of interest was presented.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board approved the process and the outline of the Expression of Interest call for Research Data Community projects (RDCPs) and delegated to the DDLs Director to finalize the call text, taking the comments of the board members and from the final DDLs Steering Group review on Dec 16 on board, and to approve the evaluation process and evaluators for the call.

6. New member in DDLs Advisory Committee (DAC)
VC-2024-0080

After the approval of members in the DDLs Advisory committee 2025 (SciLifeLab Board meeting no. 74, November 7, 2024) one more person, previous DAC member 2024, indicated willingness to continue in 2025.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board approved the appointment of Lara H Urban, Technical University of Munich, DE as member of the DDLs Advisory Committee 2025. Future additions of individual DAC members were mandated to be approved by the chair of the board.

7. DDLs Directorship

At the board meeting no. 46, October 26, 2020, Olli Kallioniemi was appointed as Director of the SciLifeLab and Wallenberg Program for Data-Driven Life Science for the period from 2021-01-01 until 2023-12-31. This appointment was prolonged at board meeting no. 64, May 24, 2023, until June 30, 2025.

To initiate the process of appointing a Director of the SciLifeLab and Wallenberg Program for Data-Driven Life Science from 2025-07-01 a first discussion was held with voting members of the SciLifeLab Board. The decision will be taken by The SciLifeLab Board after consultation with Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation.

The SciLifeLab Board mandated the chair of the Board to contact the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation for consultation.

8. Closure of the meeting

Ylva Engström thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

Upcoming meetings

- February 11, 08:30-12:00 (zoom)
- April 2, 10:00-12:00 (zoom)
- May 21, 10:00-17:00 (on-site Uppsala)
- Sep 17, 08:30-12:00 (zoom)
- October 15, 10:00-12:00 (zoom)
- November 19, 10:00-17:00 (on-site Campus Solna)
- December 17, 10:00-12:00 (zoom)

Titti Ekegren, secretary

Minutes approved by:

Ylva Engström

Katrine Riklund

Signature page

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